# ARE THEY LYING TO US ABOUT:

# BORDERS?

# OF COURSE THEY ARE

1. Reading Passage - Wikipedia
2. Main Ideas
3. Q & A
4. Borders and News Time
5. Case Study Time
6. Jokes & Laughs Time
7. Exercises Time
8. Summary / Self-Assessment

# TOPIC3: BORDERS?

## Tell Me Why — You Really Refused My Visa

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Identify borders as economic and racial filters, not neutral security
- Trace border evolution from physical fences to digital surveillance
- Analyze colonial logic in visa policies and mobility hierarchies
- Recognize alternative forms of movement that resist state control (Digital Migration)

**Key Q** **What is the true function of a modern border - Protection or Economic Filters?**

## Reading Passage

### Border

87 languages

Article Talk Read Edit View history Tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For other uses, see Border (disambiguation).*
*"County line" redirects here. For other uses, see County Line (disambiguation).*

**Borders** are generally defined as geographical boundaries, imposed either by features such as oceans and terrain, or by political entities such as governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other subnational entities. Political borders can be established through warfare, colonization, or mutual agreements between the political entities that reside in those areas.[1]

Some borders—such as most states' internal administrative borders, or inter-state borders within the Schengen Area—are open and completely unguarded.[2] Most external political borders are partially or fully controlled, and may be crossed legally only at designated border checkpoints; adjacent border zones may also be controlled. For the purposes of border control, airports and seaports are also classed as borders. Most countries have some form of border control to regulate or limit the movement of people, animals, and goods into and out of the country. Under international law, each country is generally permitted to legislate the conditions that have to be met in order to cross its borders, and to prevent people from crossing its borders in violation of those laws.

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

## Main Ideas

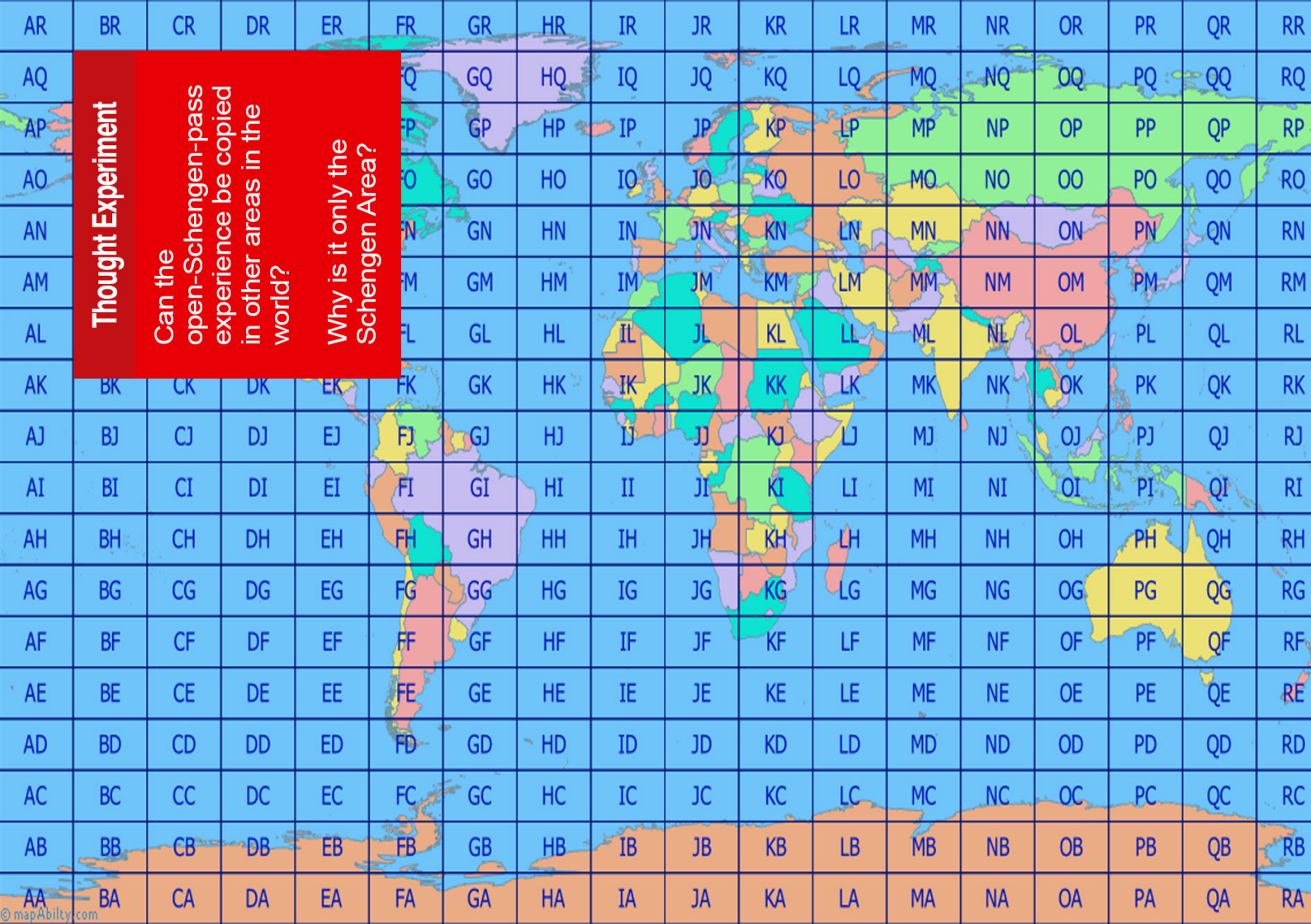
Maps draw obedience. Passports decide worth. We call it “mobility,” but it’s a privilege disguised as policy. This zine traces how borders migrated from fences to firewalls, how visas became moral tests, and how imagination might be the only way left to travel freely.

My my passport determines whether you're a "traveler" or a "migrant." This isn't geography. Borders migrated before we could. They moved from walls to databases. Today's border lives in biometric data. Visa applications are moral tests while capital moves freely. The geography of hypocrisy: aid flows south, bodies cannot flow north.

We cross without crossing everyday tho — through images, code, collaboration, memory. Digital migration as quiet rebellion. Every VPN is a forged passport. This isn't metaphor; it's actual freedom, practiced daily. The question isn't "how do we cross?" but "how do we build a world where crossing is unnecessary?"

Discussion

Think where you can travel visa-free vs. where you need permission.
Compare with a "Global North" passport. Mark colonial histories. Overlay with trade routes.
Ask: Who designed this?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Thought Experiment
Can the open-Schengen-pass experience be copied in other areas in the world?
Why is it only the Schengen Area?
© mapAbility.com

# Q & A

Are they lying to us about borders?

Yes. Borders are economic filters disguised as safety nets.

Why do they call it security?

Because “control” sounds colonial. The function of a passport is to remind you that movement is a gift from the state, not a right.

Who gets to move freely?

Those who historically moved to conquer.

What does a denied visa actually say?

That mobility itself is a privilege engineered by empire.

What’s the geography of hypocrisy?

**Aid flows south; bodies cannot flow north.**

Why does Europe have Schengen but Africa doesn't?

Because empier designed it that some people are allowed to imagine freedom. Others aren't.

If I can travel through 29 countries in the Schengen Area with one pass, can I do it for the world?

God knows.

## What's the difference between a tourist and a refugee?

The right passport.

## What can I actually do about news from across a border I can't cross?

Establish real connections. Share resources. Make life a little softer for those byond. Guilt is the indicator for care - resource sharing.

## Why does fundraising feel complicated?

Because transferring money across borders is transferring mater - being free. It's digital simualtion of what a person face when crossing a border. The physical understanding of of how maney moves is resistance.

## Can borders disappear?

They already have — digitally. Physically? Only if we stop pretending they're natural.

## What's the first step to abolishing borders?

Stop believing they're inevitable.

## What replaces borders?

Trust. Resource sharing. Mutual aid. New forms of belonging that don't require passports.

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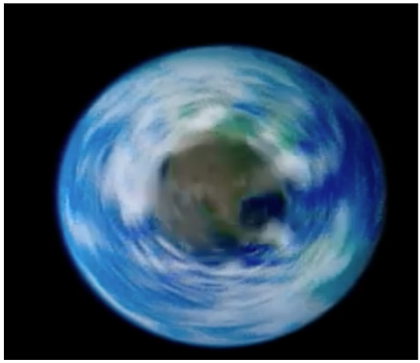


*Every border an entertainment*
*Every wound a broadcast*
*THE CURE EXISTS —*
*THE DOCTOR DOES NOT*

*My age is short — still, they made me wait.*
*I'm a rejected visa application.*
*SOMEONE PLEASE.*

# Tope 3 Passssssports on Earth

# Borders and News Time

## Digital Pain, Physical Limits

**We confuse receiving news with the ability to do something about it.** Seeing suffering doesn't equal stopping it. We've learned our methods can't always keep up. The quantity or emotion of the news doesn't change what you can actually do. It will be hard to stop an upcoming murder. Untill then - what you do with the information is up to .....

## When Digital Becomes Physical

The digital manifests as emotional news for the body. To turn it physical — Aid/money, resources, help — requires understanding of a the spesfic someone's actual condition somewhere. Can the money reach them? Can they use it? Only when understand their physical reality does it stop being just emotional. Only then can digital become physical action.

## Guilt as Compass

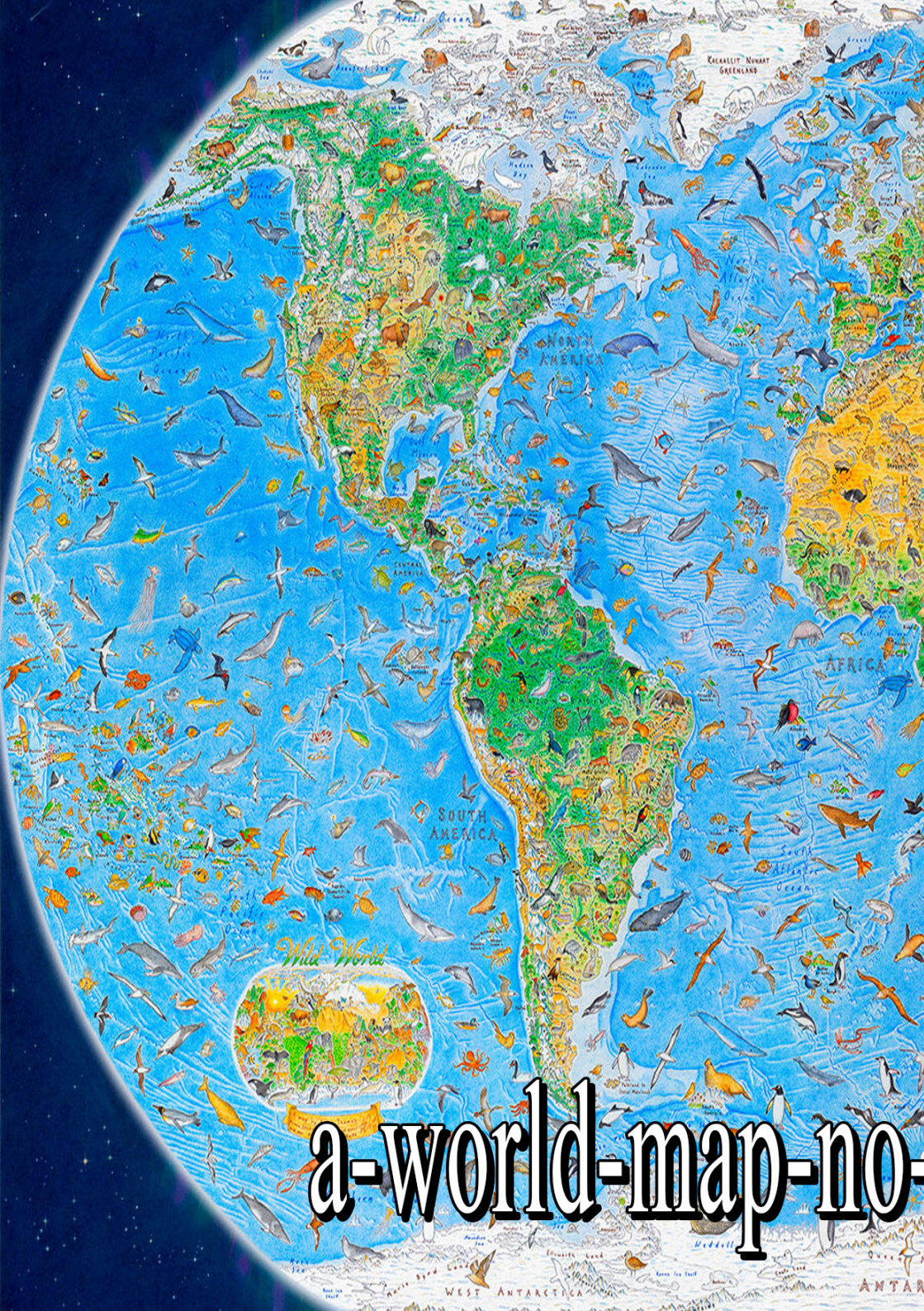
Guilt doesn't change what anyone can really do by itself. But guilt is useful — it's the indicator for resource sharing. We can't stop death, but we can make life a little better. No ignore guilt. Use it. Let it point toward action.

## Establishing Real Connections

Real connections - knowledge, platforms, time. Digital solidarity becomes physical when rooted in understanding concrete conditions. Not to save the world. To make life softer for those left behind.

## Borders in News, News in Borders

Borders control bodies and information. They decide whose suffering gets broadcast, who can fundraise, who can receive funds. The same system that denies your visa denies your ability to help across that border. But digital tools bypass some of this - They're forms of crossing without permission. They don't replace physical action, but they make it possible.

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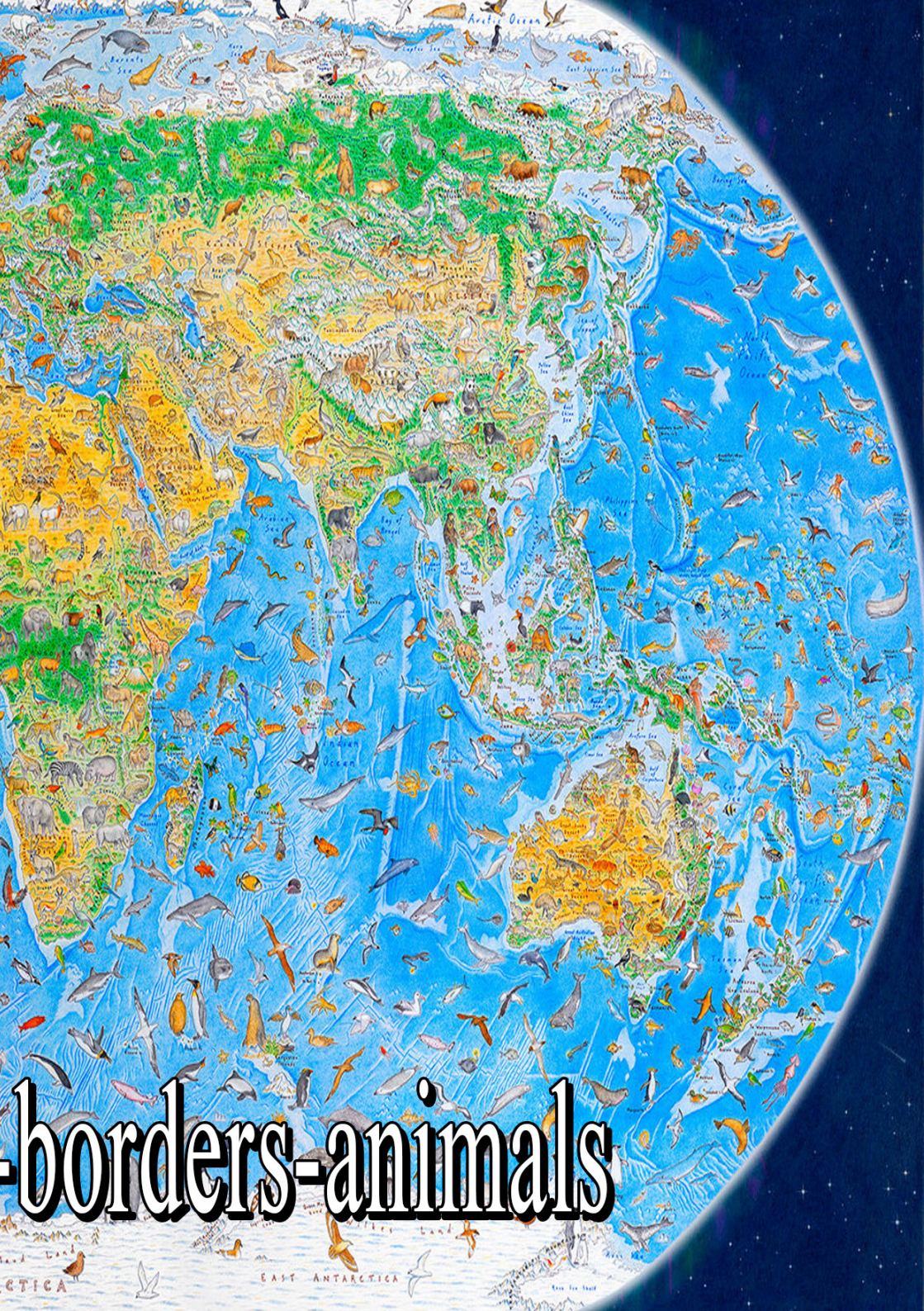

-borders-animals
EAST ANTARCTICA

# Case Study Time

**Artist:** Shahd Itbakhi
**Location:** Hebron, Palestine
**Year:** 2026
**Medium:** Silk thread embroidery and egg tempera on fabric
**Dimensions:** 200 × 150 cm each (6 maps)

***Technical Description***

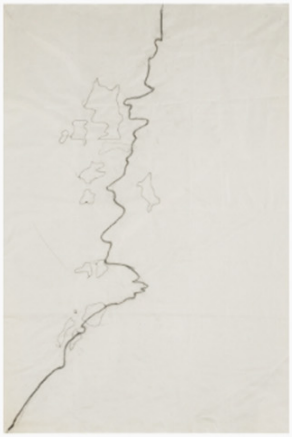
*What Does It Truly Mean to Walk the Land's Borders on Foot?* (2026) consists of six embroidered maps made with silk threads and egg tempera pigments on fabric (each 200 × 150 cm). The work documents a two-month journey during which Shahd Itbakhi walked the full borders of Area A in the West Bank, **from Jenin in the north to Dura-Hebron in the south**.. Each stitch corresponds to a single step taken by the artist.

***Conceptual Description***

For two full months, Shahd transcended the limits of the possible imposed by the weight of colonialism. She passed through Palestinian villages that may vanish, and cities whose civilizations have endured for thousands of years. She traversed the entire borders of the proposed state, counting her steps with precise enumeration.

What does it mean to walk an expanse where every step can be counted, where no mistake can be made? The map sees the proposed state as vile, performative models meant to suppress the Palestinian free spirit, declarations that are nothing but a repeated threat, chewed over for more than a century.

1



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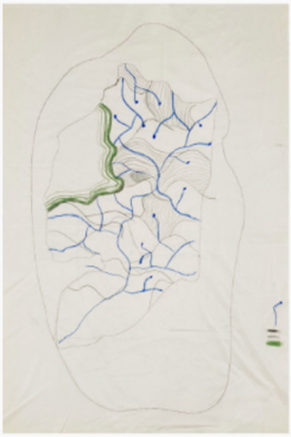

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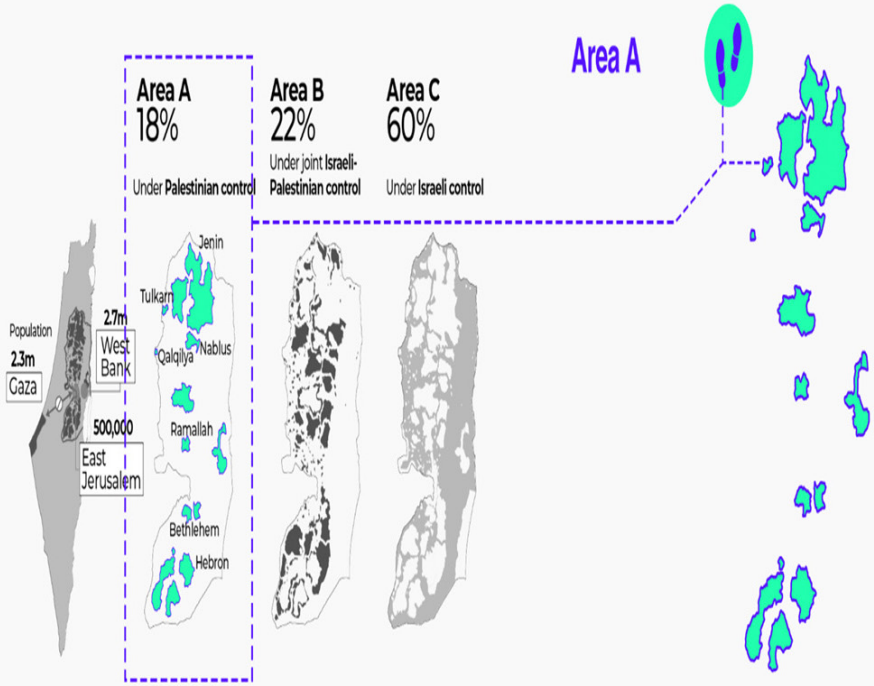
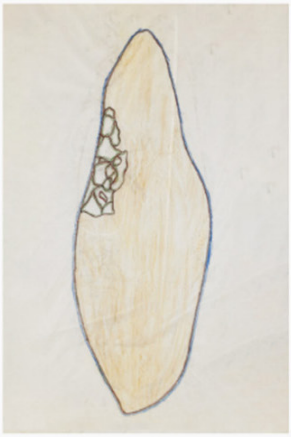
# What does it truly mean to walk the land's borders on foot?



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## Jokes & Laughs Time

✈ My visa got rejected. Reason: 'Insufficient ties to home country.' Bro, I hate it here — that's why I'm leaving.

✈ Visa application fees are non-refundable. So basically, they charge you to reject you.

✈ If Schengen works for Europe, why not the world? Oh right, because some people aren't people.

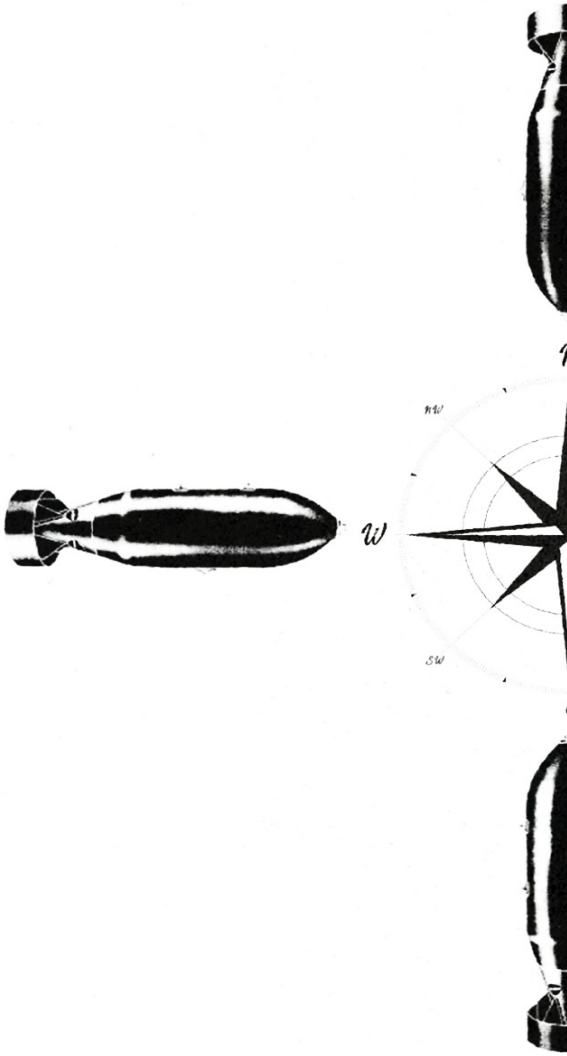
✈ Why did the chicken cross the border?
It didn't. Visa denied.

✈ Why does aid flow south but people can't flow north?
Gravity only works one way in geopolitics.

✈ Why did the chicken cross the border?
It didn't. Visa denied.

✈ What did the border say to the migrant?
It's not personal. It's policy.

Ai-generated
by Claude Sonnet
Personal Assistant

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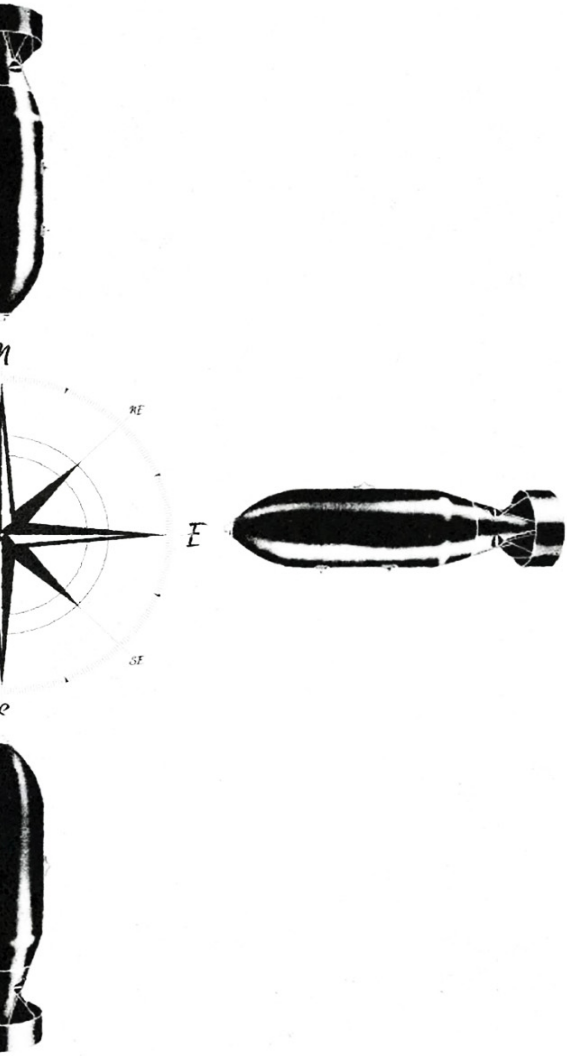



# H NO EAST NO WEST

## Exercises Time

**1** Fill in the blanks from the words in the box:

| empire |
|---|

1) Mobility itself is a privilege engineered by .....

**2** Match:

Asia

Africa

North America

South America

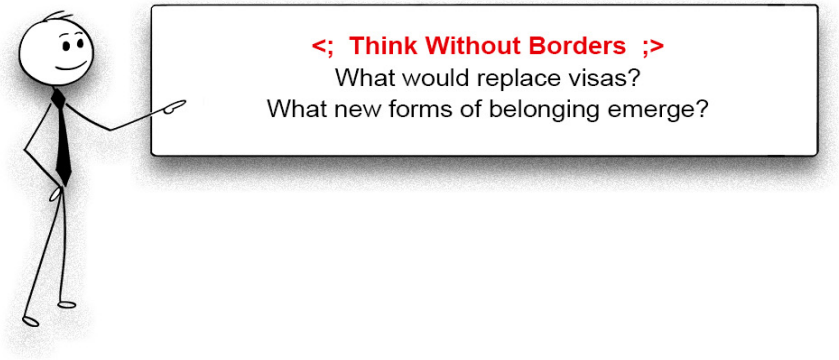
Antarctica

Europe

Australia

## Summary / Self-Assessment

Borders are designed, not natural. They're economic tools disguised as security, colonial hierarchies disguised as administration. Capital moves freely; bodies don't. Your passport is a lottery ticket assigned at birth. Yet alternatives exist: Schengen proves borderless movement works. Digital spaces bypass checkpoints. Millions practice quiet rebellion daily — crossing through code, memory, collaboration. The question isn't whether another world is possible. It's why we're pretending this one is inevitable.



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*The future is HERE.*

the world is changing

That Joke Isn't Funny Any more xd!!

This series includes:

- Sustainability?
- Academia?
- Borders?
- Mental Health?
- Religion?
- Global South?

YES

6 ZINES